

STORM DRAINAGE

In the past very little curb, gutter, or storm drainage has been built in Southern Pines. For the most part this worked very well. Most people lived in single family dwellings on large lots. This left a great deal of open ground to soak up water, and most of the soils in the Southern Pines area are very good at absorbing water. The sandy soils absorbed water so well it was thought that storm drains were not needed. And, in many sections of town they were not needed.

As more and more of the open ground is covered with houses, streets, parking lots, and other development, there is less and less open ground to absorb water. As urban development becomes more intensive, smaller and less desirable building lots are used. Homes and businesses are being built on steeper hillsides and in drainage areas that once were covered with vegetation. All of this leads to the need for artificial drainage to take the place or supplement natural drainage which is destroyed.

The storm drainage system in Southern Pines is confined mainly to the central section of the old part of town. Drainage in this section is basically adequate due to the favorable soils and high percentage of open land.

In west Southern Pines the situation is different. The land is more hilly, and there is less vegetation. After a heavy rain, sand can be seen deposited across entire streets in low areas. Along steep streets, areas where sand has washed out from under the street pavement can be observed. This leads to pavement breaking up along the edge of streets. Southern Pines has made a large investment in street pavement in this area within the past few years. In order to protect this investment and provide adequate facilities, curb, gutter, and storm drains need to be built.

Southern Pines is located on two hills, one west of highway U. S. 1 and one east of the highway. The highway generally follows the valley between the two hills. Many of the streets